

Toronto City Councillor

Chin Lee

WARD 41 E-NEWS REPORT



Call: (416) 392-1375 E-mail: councillor_lee@toronto.ca

February 2015

Dear Neighbour,

The Family Day long weekend is upon us, so I would like to wish everyone Happy Family Day.

In addition, wishing those who celebrate it, A Very Happy Lunar and Goat New Year, and may the Goat Year be filled with Good Health, Happiness, Harmony and Prosperity.

This issue of E-news is rather lengthy due to the many things happening, but I would like to bring your attention to my Town Halls on the evening of February 17th and 26th. See below for more details.

Below are articles on the Water Meter replacement program, police warnings and updates on initiatives and activities around the ward and in the city.

As always, if you have any comments, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (416) 392-1375 or councillor_lee@toronto.ca.

Sincerely,

Chin Lee

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Water Meter Program Update

The City of Toronto has been implementing a mandatory water meter upgrade since 2010. Contractors have been replacing, retrofitting or installing new automated water

meters in every residential and commercial property in Toronto. The program has been highly successful and is now in the final year of implementation. More than 95% of Toronto Water's 470,000 customers have upgraded to the new automated system. However, 1% of clients have refused to install the new water meters.

In December 2013, Toronto City Council instituted a non-compliance fee for Toronto Water customers who refused to install the new automated water meter. Toronto Water staff has contacted these customers at least 7 times trying to book an appointment without success. There are 2 types of fees:

- A fee for customers who have water meters that need to be upgraded.
- A fee for customers who do not have water meters.

Customers who have water meters that need to be upgraded but have refused to do so will be charged \$80 each time City staff is sent to their homes to take readings. The goal of the fee is full cost recovery of staff (and all associated cost) to take the readings.

Toronto Water clients who do not have a water meter and refuse to have one installed will be charged an annual Legacy Fee of \$1020. The Legacy Fee is designed to recover estimated revenues from the flat rate customers. These fees may rise in the future. Both fees take effect starting July 1, 2015.

Replacing water meters under the Water Meter Program will be considered complete in Ward 41 in 2015. If you have not upgraded your water meter yet, you should call (416) 236-3837 to book an appointment before July 1, 2015 to avoid paying the additional fees.

#TOTalentTalk

Are you interested in working for the City of Toronto? TO Talent Talk takes place every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon). Log in to your Twitter account and use the hash tag #TOTalentTalk to speak with a live recruiter about career and job related information.

You can also follow City of Toronto Jobs (@CityTOjobs) on Twitter to receive job postings for positions with the City of Toronto. For more information on joining the Toronto Public Service, visit www.toronto.ca/jobs.

Thieves Target Scarborough Residents as they Disembark TTC Buses

Pedestrians and transit users should be aware of the surrounding environment after a series of violent street robberies in Scarborough. Toronto Police warn residents that the robberies are becoming increasingly violent as weapons are being used to inflict serious injuries during these thefts.

The thieves have taken to targeting public transit users as they disembark TTC buses in Scarborough. After TTC users exit the bus, they are robbed by males between the ages of 16 to 25 who steal cell phones and tablets. Please stay alert of your surroundings, and avoid distracted walking (eg. texting, net-surfing, etc).

Toronto Police have created a re-enactment video that can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eh9ZRvrb2Jl>.

Robbers Using Online Classified Websites, say Police

42 Division would like to remind our community to be careful when using online classified websites. Suspects are contacting and meeting victims under the guise of buying or selling personal property then robbing them – either at the agreed upon meeting location or taking them somewhere else. Residents are urged to be very careful when meeting people through any classified advertisement.

If you are planning on purchasing or selling merchandise on the classified websites, the following are suggested:

1. Have someone accompany you to conduct the transaction.
2. Make arrangements to meet in a very public place frequented by many people.
3. Let someone know where and when you are meeting the person.
4. Have your telephone pre-dialled to someone who you have pre-arranged to call the police if they receive a non-verbal call from you. If you get into trouble, push the send button.
5. Be observant and if something does not seem right, do not continue with the arrangement. Immediately leave the location and if applicable, call the police.
6. Do not agree to meet at another location. Disregard the transaction if the other person insists on meeting somewhere else in order for them to obtain the money or the merchandise after they meet you at the original location, or going to another location to complete the deal.

Safety is the most important part of the equation.

T.O. Budget 2015: Facts about the Toronto Public Library

The Toronto Public Library is one of the busiest library systems in the world. The City of Toronto will operate 100 branches across the municipality once the Scarborough Civic Centre branch opens later this year. Approximately 72% of Torontonians have visited a Toronto Public Library branch with 1 in 6 residents making weekly visits.

Economists estimate that Toronto's library system creates more than \$1 billion in economic benefits to the city annually. The University of Toronto's Martin Prosperity

Institute estimates that every dollar invested in the library system generates a \$5.63 return for Toronto tax payers.

T.O. Budget 2015: Facts about Toronto Water

Toronto Water provides the city and its residents with vital services - safe, quality drinking water and waste water treatment. This of the City of Toronto division also repairs and maintains the city's water infrastructure.

Last year, Toronto Water sold 454 billion litres of water to 3.4 million residents and businesses in Toronto and parts of York Region. As the region's population grows, demand for Toronto Water's services will grow. Toronto's water rates are very affordable as it costs \$0.0015 to fill a 500 mL bottle of water. Part of the cost of water is treating it to ensure a safe drinking supply.

Collecting and treating waste water is not yet a cost recovery system. Collecting and treating 454 billion litres of water cost \$203.5 million last year. Collecting, treating and distributing water is an expensive process but so is maintaining and retaining the infrastructure that allows Toronto Water to do its job.

Every year, Toronto Water staff maintain and repair 5900 km of watermains, 4900 km of storm sewers, 3900 km of sanitary sewers and 1500 km of combined sewers. The City of Toronto experiences 1500 watermain breaks on average every year. It costs the city \$8000 to repair a water main break. Toronto also has aging infrastructure that needs to be replaced. In 2014, the city spent \$133 million to modernize parts of the watermain system. That work will continue this year.

Toronto also runs the Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program. Last year, the city spent \$61 million to protect basements from flooding. For more information on the program, visit <http://tinyurl.com/mymysybd>.

T.O. Budget 2015: Facts about Snow Clearing and Road Maintenance

One of Toronto's Transportation division many responsibilities is to maintain our streets. This include but is not limited to snow clearing operations and road repairs.

It takes time for the city to clear snow from our streets after a large winter storm. Toronto has 8000 km of sidewalks, 5600 km of roads and 130 km of expressways. The City of Toronto has set service levels for snow ploughing on public roads and sidewalks. Prior to a storm, work crews apply salt water (brine) on hills and bridges. When snowfall commences, highways and major roads are de-iced first, followed by residential streets.

Road Category	Snow Accumulation	Service Time Frame (Time to Complete)
Highway	2.5 cm	Continuous ploughing
Arterial (Main) Road	5 cm	Continuous ploughing

Residential Street	8 cm	(5-15 cm) / (15-25 cm)
		16 hours / 20 hours
Windrow Opening	8 cm	2 hours after ploughing of residential streets
Sidewalk	8 cm (December & March)	2 rounds*
	5 cm (January & February)	3 rounds*

* 16 hours per round

Under the windrow program, City staff will only clear enough space to allow 1 car to easily access the road. Moreover, "windrow clearing is not provided on narrow streets with no boulevards." Finally, windrows created by sidewalk ploughing operations will not be cleared by City staff.

In December and March, the City of Toronto will clear sidewalks after 8 cm of snow has accumulated on walkways while the service level is increased to 5 cm of snow during the harsher winter months of January and February.

Please note, 311 will not create service orders while an operation is still active. For example, if you call 311 within 16 to 20 hours after the end of a major snow storm, to report snow on a residential street, you will be advised to call back after the service time frame has elapsed.

If these service standards are not being met, please call my office at (416) 392-1375 or send my office an e-mail at councillor_lee@toronto.ca. Do not push snow back onto the road. It is illegal, hinders the city's snow clearing operations and is dangerous for motorists.

Toronto's Transportation division also repairs our roads. Potholes are filled within 4 to 5 days of being reported. Last year, the city filled in 300,000 potholes. Each pothole costs \$25 to repair. The city will also accelerate repairs to the Gardiner Expressway and will spend \$970 million from 2015-2024 to rehabilitate this aging but critical piece of Toronto's transportation infrastructure.

Update on Line 9B

Line 9 is a pipeline that was constructed in 1976 to transport oil from Sarnia to Montreal (in an eastward direction). The pipeline transported 240,000 barrels of oil per day throughout much of its operation. In 1998, the direction of the flow was reversed (westward flow) as foreign oil became more affordable.

The exploitation of the Alberta Tar Sands has prompted Enbridge's application to the National Energy Board to reverse the flow of the pipeline once more in an eastward direction. This would supply refineries in Montreal with Alberta oil. Enbridge also applied to increase the capacity of the pipeline. On March 6, 2014, the National Energy Board

approved both proposals: the Line 9B Reversal and Line 9 Capacity Expansion Project, subject to conditions.

The National Energy Board placed conditions on its approval of both projects: Condition 13 - Continued Fitness for Service of Line 9A, and Condition 14 - Long Term Integrity Improvement Plan for 9A. As required by the National Energy Board, Enbridge filed its response to these conditions on January 26, 2015.

Oil pipelines fall under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada but I would like to keep you informed of events that affect you and your family, especially since the pipeline runs through Ward 41 in the Finch Hydro Corridor located just south of McNicoll Ave. For more information on this topic, visit <https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/pplctnflng/mjrpp/ln9brvrs/index-eng.html>.

TIFF in the Park

For the past four years, TIFF has been successfully running TIFF in the Park, a free outdoor screening series every Wednesday in David Pecaut Square. This year, TIFF is expanding the program. In collaboration with Toronto Park People, TIFF is launching TIFF in Your Park.

TIFF and Park People are looking for volunteer groups and non-profit organizations to co-host movie nights this summer (July-August, 2015). Applications are now open to interested parties and close on February 16, 2015. 10 slots are available for screenings every Friday night from July 3 to September 4, 2015. All costs are covered by TIFF and Park People.

This project is made possible through the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Park People and TIFF's generous donors and members. For more information, visit <http://parkpeople.ca/content/events/tiff-your-park>. The application process form is also attached to this newsletter. To apply, visit https://docs.google.com/a/parkpeople.ca/forms/d/1tpplxRNEANFmlj_Xx378uELzYWOKOdqdiAS9BFikt08/viewform.

Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy

In April 2014, Toronto City Council requested staff develop a Poverty Reduction Strategy. Mayor Tory highlighted poverty reduction as a key priority in his inaugural address on December 2, 2014. He appointed Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell to spearhead this initiative.

To successfully address this issue, the city must first understand the nature and breadth of the problem. This involves speaking to the people who experience poverty in their daily lives and learning about their lived experiences. Staff consulted Torontonians and heard that the following can help alleviate poverty:

- Good jobs and a living wage;
- Access to affordable, good quality housing;
- Access to affordable, good quality childcare;
- Affordable, reliant, available public transit; and
- Support for good quality nutrition for all

In the interim, the City of Toronto is planning to spend \$28.4 million for new and enhanced programs to support poverty reduction. This funding increase has been budgeted for in the City of Toronto's 2015 Operating Budget.

The city is still engaging residents to learn how best to reduce poverty in Toronto. Please see the events section below for information on a city-led Poverty Reduction Days of Dialogue public consultation.

For more information on Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy, visit www.toronto.ca/toprosperity. Please note that ASL interpretation, child minding and refreshments will be provided at each session.

Construction on the Stouffville GO Train Line

My office has received reports of noise from Agincourt GO Station early in the morning. The noise is caused by contractors clearing snow at the station's parking lot and trains passing through the area during early morning rush hour. In response to community feedback, Metrolinx will be installing a noise wall to mitigate nuisance sounds coming from its GO train stations.

Additional construction is scheduled to occur along the Stouffville GO Train line this spring. Metrolinx is building a second set of tracks on a 5 km stretch of rail line from just north of Milliken GO Train Station to Marilyn Ave., which is located just north of Agincourt GO Train Station. This double-tracking of the railway corridor will allow GO Transit to eventually provide two-way train service. Double-tracking the rest of the line will occur in 2016. This is also a first step in realizing Mayor Tory's SmartTrack plan.

Metrolinx says it intends to keep our community informed about this project and that it will host public consultation meetings in the spring. My office will keep you posted as developments occur. For more information on GO Transit's Stouffville Railway Corridor Expansion, you can view the Environmental Assessment of this project at <http://www.go transit.com/public/en/improve/environmentalassessments.aspx>.

Measles Outbreak in Toronto

Measles is a highly contagious disease that is spread easily but is also preventable. Six cases of the disease have recently been reported in Toronto.

Measles is caused by a virus that infects the lungs/respiratory system. Serious complications can arise from this illness such as swelling of the brain and death. The best way to protect you and your family from measles is to be vaccinated.

For more information on measles and the vaccine, visit the following links:

- <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vnextoid=d363c04e71022410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>
- <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vnextoid=a7a3a6fb78a02410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

You can also read the attached PDF file on the impact of vaccines on public health in Canada.

If you have any questions about measles exposure or your immunization status, please call Toronto Health Connection at 416-388-7600 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or 311 after business hours.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Community Meeting

The Community Advisory Council of The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) will be hosting a community session on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on February 17, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Scarborough Civic Centre.

The PTSD Community Session will be an open and educational dialogue about a serious mental health disorder that affects individuals in different ways. At the session, those in attendance will learn more about PTSD, discover how it affects individuals and those around them, and find out how community organizations are assisting those dealing with PTSD and trauma. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Date: February 17, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Scarborough Civic Centre, Committee Rooms 1 and 2 - (150 Borough Dr.)

Parking will be free (80-100 spots), **in the upper parking pad to the east of the Scarborough Civic Centre** (entrance from the Scarborough Town Centre Court). Upon arrival at the parking lot gate, buzz security and advise that you are attending the PTSD Community Meeting.

EVENTS (for even more events, see www.toronto.ca/events)

December 13th, 2014 to February 21st, 2015 – DJ Skate Nights – Harbourfront Centre

Take a trip to Harbourfront Centre for a skate party every Saturday night from December 13 to February 21. The DJ will be on site from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

February 16th, 2015 – City of Toronto Family Day Events

The City of Toronto offers residents many opportunities to have a fun Family Day.

Check out my website for a list of Family Day events in the city:

<https://chinlee41.wordpress.com/2015/02/12/city-of-toronto-offers-many-opportunities-for-a-fun-family-day-on-monday/>.

February 16th, 2015 – Scarborough Muslim Community Family Day Celebration and Walkathon – 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon) – Scarborough Civic Centre, Rotunda (150 Borough Dr.)

The Scarborough Muslim Community Family Day Celebration and Walkathon will take start at 11 a.m. at the Scarborough Civic Centre Rotunda. A brief address will occur at 11:45 a.m.

February 17th, 2015 – Chin Lee's Community Budget Consultation Meeting – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. – 31 Glen Watford Dr. (Agincourt Community Recreation Centre) Join Chin for a discussion about the City of Toronto's 2015 Budget.

February 17th, 2015 – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Community Session – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – 150 Borough Dr., Committee Rooms 1 and 2 (Scarborough Civic Centre)

The PTSD Community Session will be an open and educational dialogue about a serious mental health disorder that affects individuals in different ways. Free parking (80-100 pads) is available in the upper parking pad to the east of the Scarborough Civic Centre (entrance from Scarborough Town Centre Court). Upon arrival at the parking lot gate, buzz security and advise that you are attending the PTSD Community Meeting.

February 19th, 2015 – Poverty Reduction Days of Dialogue – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – 30 Sewells Rd. (Malvern Recreation Centre)

Have your say in the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy by attending one of the Community Dialogues.

February 21st, 2015 – Poverty Reduction Days of Dialogue – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – 2467 Eglinton Ave. E. (Don Montgomery Community Centre)

Have your say in the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy by attending one of the Community Dialogues.

February 21st, 2015 – Eastern Canada Highland Dancers' Alliance Dancing Competition – 8:30 a.m. – 2395 Bayview Ave.

The Eastern Canada Highland Dancers' Alliance will be hosting a dancing competition on Saturday, February 21st. The novice dance competition will begin at 8:30 a.m. and

the intermediate and advance competitions will start at 10 a.m. You must be a member to enter the competition. Membership fees cost \$50. Visit <http://echda.ca/events/> for more information.

February 24th, 2015 – Poverty Reduction Days of Dialogue – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – 4242 Kingston Rd. (Progress Church of God)

Have your say in the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy by attending one of the Community Dialogues.

February 26th, 2015 – Chin Lee's Community Budget Consultation Meeting – 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – 4325 McCowan Rd. (Milliken Park Community Recreation Centre)

Join Chin for a discussion about the City of Toronto's 2015 Budget.